


# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 20, 2006 (BOS Mtg. 8/1/06)

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** James O. McReynolds, County Administrator 

**SUBJECT:** Speed Limit Provisions – Running Man and Wythe Creek Farms

### Issue

Earlier this year, the Traffic Safety representative of the Running Man Community Association submitted a request for extension of the *\$200 Additional Speeding Penalty* to additional streets in the Running Man subdivision. Because these streets were relatively new, VDOT had not yet installed the 25 MPH speed limit signs along them. Since having posted speed limits is a prerequisite for considering the additional penalty provision, the request was deemed premature. VDOT has now installed the speed limit signs and the neighborhood representative has indicated that speeding incidents are continuing. Therefore, the request is now appropriate for consideration by the Board.

Previously, the Board has requested, and VDOT has approved, the additional penalty designation for the main through streets in Running Man, Wythe Creek Farms and Sherwood Forest. The current request has been prompted by the completion of additional sections of the Running Man subdivision and the interconnection of additional street segments providing opportunities to travel from one neighborhood through another to reach major collector or arterial routes. These through-street connections, while beneficial from a transportation network standpoint, sometimes have a greater tendency to exhibit speeding problems. When the Running Man, Wythe Creek Farms and Sherwood Forest restrictions were initially established it was expected that eventually there would be additional street segments where the designation would be warranted. The attached letter indicates that the Running Man community believes that time has come.

### Background

In 1996 the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopted a policy and procedures for the installation of signs advising of a \$200 additional penalty for exceeding the posted speed limit on certain residential streets. These procedures require that a formal request for establishment of the \$200 penalty provision be submitted by resolution of the Board of Supervisors. To qualify, a street must meet the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) definition of “local residential” or “residential collector” prescribed in the policy and must have a posted speed limit of 35 MPH or lower. The policy includes definitions intended to encompass only those streets that are predominantly residential in nature and also requires that residential units face the street and have driveway connections to it. The Board’s request to VDOT for establishment of the restrictions must identify the specific road segments to be covered, confirm that the segments meet the definitions, note that a speeding problem exists, and document that the increased penalty has community sup-

port. If the request is approved, VDOT will install the necessary regulatory sign. Since 1997 the Board has adopted resolutions requesting VDOT to designate over forty (40) streets in County neighborhoods for the \$200 speeding fine.

### **Considerations**

Because the subject streets are relatively new, there is not an extensive record of citations for speeding. Nevertheless, the Running Man Community Association has noted that speeding problems do exist and have become more prevalent as a result of the connections to Wythe Creek Farms and Sherwood Forest now being complete. As the Board may recall, when the Sherwood Forest (Robin Hood Drive) and Wythe Creek Farms designations were requested it was anticipated that additional street segments would need to be included once they were completed. The increased penalty for speeding designation represents a proactive traffic-calming approach to help ensure that residential street interconnections function safely and it can also act as a deterrent to “cut-through” traffic. All of the streets under consideration meet the eligibility criteria specified by VDOT.

### **Recommendation**

Although the Running Man request involves streets where there is little or no documentation in the form of speeding citations, I am inclined to support it as a proactive measure and to provide continuity with the designations that apply in the adjacent developments. Along that line of reasoning, I also recommend that the segment of Brentmeade Drive between its two intersections with Pasture Lane also be included since that segment was not complete in 1999 when the original Wythe Creek Farms designation was established.

I recommend that the Board endorse these requests for the establishment of the increased penalty provisions through the adoption of Resolution R06-108 and forward it to VDOT with a request for approval.

Carter/3337

#### **Attachments**

- Letter from Running Man Community Association dated February 13, 2006
- Vicinity map
- List of previously-approved \$200 additional fine roads
- Proposed Resolution R06-108